

Wildlife Interpretations

General

Soils directly affect the kind and amount of vegetation that is available to wildlife as food and cover. They also affect the development of water impoundments. The kind and abundance of wildlife that populate an area depend largely on the amount and distribution of food, cover, water, and living space. If any one of these elements is missing, inadequate, or inaccessible, wildlife will be scarce or will not inhabit the area. If the soils have the potential, wildlife habitat can be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation, properly managing the existing plant cover, and fostering the natural establishment of desirable plants.

Soils are rated according to their potential for providing habitat for various kinds of wildlife. This information can be used in planning parks, wildlife refuges, nature study areas, and other developments for wildlife. It can also be used in selecting soils that are suitable for establishing, improving, or maintaining specific elements of wildlife habitat.

Suitability Ratings

Good - means that the element of wildlife habitat or the kind of habitat is easily created, improved, or maintained. Few or no limitations affect management, and satisfactory results can be expected if the soil is used for the designated purpose.

Fair - means that the element of wildlife habitat or kind of habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places. Moderately intensive management is required for satisfactory results.

Poor - means that limitations are severe for the designated element or kind of wildlife habitat. Habitat can be created, improved, or maintained in most places, but management is difficult and requires intensive effort.

Wildlife Habitat Suitability

Description of Wildlife Habitat Elements

Grain and seed crops are seed-producing annuals used by wildlife. Examples are corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, millet, buckwheat, and sunflowers.

Grasses and legumes are domestic perennial grasses and herbaceous legumes that are planted for wildlife food and cover. Examples are fescue, bluegrass, brome grass, timothy, orchardgrass, clover, alfalfa, trefoil, reed canarygrass, and crownvetch.

Wild herbaceous plants are native and naturally established herbaceous grasses and forbs, including weeds, that provide food and cover for wildlife. Examples are bluestem, indiagrass, blueberry, goldenrod, lambsquarters, dandelions, blackberry, ragweed, wheatgrass, fescue, and nightshade.

Hardwood trees and the associated woody understory provide cover for wildlife and produce nuts or other fruit, buds, catkins, twigs, bark, or foliage that wildlife eat. Examples of native plants are oak, poplar, cherry, apple, birch, beech, maple, ash and viburnum. Examples of fruit-bearing shrubs that are commercially available and suitable for planting on soils rated good are hawthorn, sumac, silky dogwood, highbush cranberry, and crabapple.

Coniferous plants are cone-bearing trees, shrubs, or ground cover that furnish habitat or supply food in the form of browse, seed, or fruitlike cones. Examples are pine, spruce, hemlock, fir, yew, cedar, larch, and juniper.

Wetland plants are annual and perennial wild herbaceous plants that grow on moist or wet sites, exclusive of submerged or floating aquatics. They produce food or cover for wildlife that use wetland as habitat. Examples of wetland plants are smartweed, wild millet, rushes, sedges, reeds, wildrice, arrowhead, waterplantain, pickerelweed, and cattail.

Shallow water areas are bodies of surface water that have an average depth of less than 5 feet and are useful as habitat for wildlife. They can be naturally wet areas, or they can be created by dams or levees, or by water-control devices in marshes or streams. Examples are muskrat marshes, waterfowl feeding areas, wildlife watering developments, beaver ponds, and other wildlife ponds.

Kinds of Wildlife Habitat

Openland habitat consists of croplands, pastures, meadows, and areas that are overgrown with grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines. These areas produce grain and seed crops, grasses and legumes, and wild herbaceous plants. The kind of wildlife attracted to these areas include Bobolinks, meadowlark, field sparrow, killdeer, cottontail rabbit, red fox, and woodchuck.

Woodland habitat consists of hardwood or conifers, or a mixture of these and associated grasses, legumes and wild herbaceous plants. Examples of wildlife attracted to this habitat are wild turkey, woodcock, thrushes, woodpeckers, owl, tree squirrels, , porcupine, raccoon, deer, and black bear.

Wetland habitat consists of water-tolerant plants in open, marshy or swampy, shallow water areas. Examples of wildlife attracted to this habitat are ducks, geese, herons, bitterns, rails, kingfishers, muskrat, otter, mink, and beaver.

See the National Soil Survey Handbook, Part 620, for criteria used in rating specific uses.

WILDLIFE HABITAT SUITABILITY**Aroostook County Southern part**

The information in this table indicates the dominant soil condition but does not eliminate the need for onsite investigation. Absence of an entry indicates that no rating is applicable.

Soil name and map symbol	grain and seed crop	wild herb- aceous plants	grasses and legumes	hard- wood trees	conife rous plants	wetland plants	shallow water area	open land wild life	wood land wild life	wet land wild life
CgA CARIBOU	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
CgB CARIBOU	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
CgC CARIBOU	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
CgD CARIBOU	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
CgE CARIBOU	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
CnA COLTON	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
CnB COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
CnC COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor

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CnD COLTON	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
CnE COLTON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
CoA CONANT	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor
CoB CONANT	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
CoC CONANT	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
DaA DAIGLE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Fair
DaB DAIGLE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
DaC DAIGLE	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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GP										
PITS	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor
Ha										
HADLEY	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
HoA										
HOWLAND	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Fair
HoB										
HOWLAND	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
HoC										
HOWLAND	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
HvB										
HOWLAND	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
HvC										
HOWLAND	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
LnB										
LINNEUS	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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LnC LINNEUS	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
LnD LINNEUS	Very poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
MaA MACHIAS	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor
MaB MACHIAS	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor
MaC MACHIAS	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Fair	Very poor
Md MADE LAND										
MhB MAPLETON	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
MhC MAPLETON	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor

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MhD										
MAPLETON	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MmC										
MAPLETON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
MmD										
MAPLETON	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
Mn										
MIXED ALLUVIAL	Poor	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Mn										
MIXED ALLUVIAL	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
MoA										
MONARDA	Poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair
MoB										
BURNHAM	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
MoB										
MONARDA	Poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor

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MoB										
BURNHAM	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
MrB										
MONARDA	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Very poor
BURNHAM	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
Pa										
PEAT	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good
MUCK	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good
PeA										
PERHAM	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor
PeB										
PERHAM	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
PeC										
PERHAM	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor

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PeD PERHAM	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
PgB PLAISTED	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
PgC PLAISTED	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
PgD PLAISTED	Poor	Good	Fair	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Good	Very poor
PrB PLAISTED	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
PrC PLAISTED	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
PrD PLAISTED	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
PrE PLAISTED	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor

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PvB										
PLAISTED	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
HOWLAND	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
PvC										
PLAISTED	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
HOWLAND	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor
RaA										
RED HOOK	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Good	Fair
ATHERTON	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good
RaB										
RED HOOK	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Good	Good	Very poor
ATHERTON	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good

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SgA STETSON	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
SgB STETSON	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Fair	Very poor
ThB THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
ThC THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
ThD THORNDIKE	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Very poor
ThE THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TkB THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TkC THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor

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TkD										
THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TkE										
THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TsB										
THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
TsC										
THORNDIKE	Very poor	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Poor	Very poor
Wn										
WINOOSKI	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Good	Good	Poor
HOWLAND										
HOWLAND	Very poor	Good	Poor	Good	Good	Very poor	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very poor